

GIANT BONUS PULLOUT INSIDE!

SIMPSONS

ILLUSTRATED

MEET MATT!

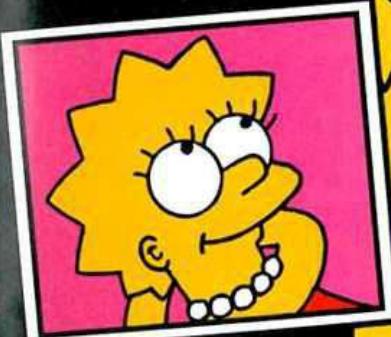
AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MATT GROENING,
THE MAN BEHIND THE SIMPSONS!



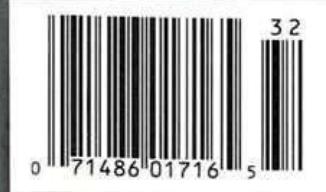
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O O AS SEEN ON TV!

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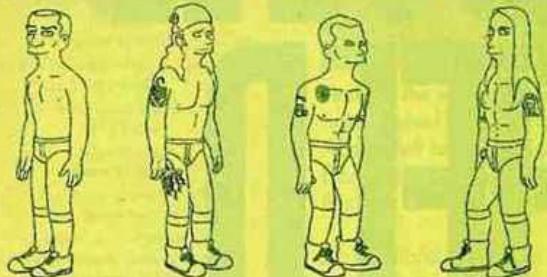
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IN THE NEWS

OUR MOTTO: "TRUTH IS WEIRDER THAN FICTION"



THE FRONT PAGE



THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

With Johnny Carson, Elizabeth Taylor, Bette Midler, Hugh Hefner, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers rushing to the aid of Krusty the Clown in a recent *Simpsons* episode, the stars just keep on coming . . . Look for Mr. Burns getting a birthday serenade from the Ramones . . . George Harrison comes to appreciate **Homer's musical talents** . . . Other celebrity guests are still a secret, but here's a hint: They're very famous and they have **enormous egos** . . . We'll also see Homer go back to college . . . **Marge in prison** . . . **Bart shipwrecked at sea** . . . Lisa in dreamland . . . and yet another Halloween special . . . Other works in progress include a *Radioactive Man* comic book, the long-awaited second *Simpsons* album, *Bart Simpson's Guide to Life* (in hardcover), and *Cartooning With The Simpsons*.

BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE THE TIME?

You may know the difference between a picket fence and grandma's teeth (obscure bowling terms), but even the most experienced bowler might profitably spare the time it takes to learn Homer Simpson's Bowling Tips as revealed last year in *Bowling Magazine*:

- 1) Homer's basic law of bowling physics: The louder you yell, the more pins will fall down.
- 2) Don't sip another player's beer when he's gotten up to bowl his frame. Gulp it quickly.
- 3) Playing poorly? Faulty addition can work wonders on your score.
- 4) Didn't win any trophies in the tournament? Those nifty multicolored shoes make fine "consolation prizes."
- 5) Remember, you're

there to have fun. The comfort, safety, and mental well-being of others are not your responsibility.

WHEN WE ARE BAD, WE ARE VERY, VERY GOOD

Last year *The Simpsons* garnered numerous accolades and mention on many year-ending "top ten" lists, from sources as diverse as *Parent's Choice* to the International Animation Society's "Annie" awards. While all are appreciated, one particular list is of paramount importance, an indication from those in the know that the pinnacle of success has been climbed, unsurpassed excellence attained; so it is with no small measure of pride that we at *Simpsons Illustrated* announce the inclusion of *The Simpsons* on the right-wing Media Research Center's Top Ten Most Biased Shows of 1992.

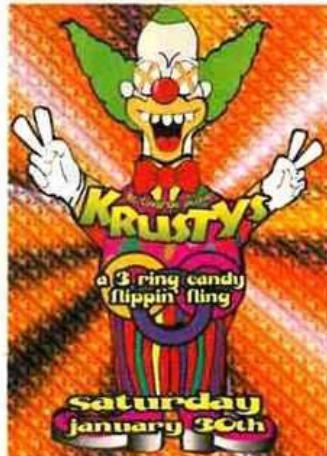
BUT CAN I MAJOR IN HOMER?

The Idea Network of Wisconsin Public Radio was the forum for an intellectual wrestling match between two college professors and the listening audience last winter as they grappled with a problem that has long been baffling the finest minds: What is the deal with Homer Simpson? The professors had convened a Simpsonium at Beloit College to assemble the necessary brainpower for the task. Their next day's radio appearance, sharing the Simpsonium results, generated a huge volume of impassioned calls from the public.

(To bring you a flavor of the discussion without chewing the fat yourself, we have reported the broadcast in the most sensational manner possible. Readers are encouraged to get a real feeling for the program by clearing their throats frequently during the following.)

One perceptive caller thought Homer's "psychoanalytical" difficulty may be due to manipulation of radiation at the nuclear plant." English professor Tom McBride agreed: "Homer regularly carries home a little bit of radioactive material. I think it's stuck to the top of his head.... I'm not really sure. He tosses it to the side. He appears not to know what it is, so it

The Simpsons display their firm grasp of movie theater etiquette on this poster for the 1993 Worldfest-Houston film festival.



Always looking for a new gig, Krusty the Clown makes a highly unauthorized appearance on a flier for a Los Angeles underground rave.

is conceivable that Homer may be somewhat radiation damaged."

The talk turned to Homer's rejection of God in one episode, which may later have prompted McBride to sigh that "there is



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IN THE NEWS



To mark the smash debut of *Simpsons Comics and Stories*, its creators autographed hundreds of copies at several Los Angeles comic shops. Above (left to right): Matt Groening, Steve Vance, and Bill Morrison face disgruntled fans who've waited in line for hours only to learn that this was not an Image comic book.

the possibility that God may be somewhat depressed." Seeing his colleague's despondent state, Economics professor Bob Elder lashed out at Homer, calling him "the most self-indulgent character that appears anywhere on television" and accused him of being part of the "dangerous scum class" that Karl Marx warned about in *The Communist Manifesto*. "In Marx, there are two main classes," Elder said, "the proletariat and the bourgeoisie...Mr. Burns and Smithers are members of the bourgeoisie, who exploit workers...Homer's fellow workers at the plant are members of the proletariat. I think Marx would say that Homer is not a noble revolutionary (proletariat), but belongs to another class...the dangerous class: 'the social scum, that passively rotting mass thrown off by the lowest layers of old society.'" Elder then called Homer "the bribed tool of reactionary intrigue."

This touched a nerve in the listening public. One caller leapt to Homer's defense, insisting he was a prole, not scum; not "that fringe of society that lives on its wits, a kind of semi-criminal class, the same class from which Hitler got the SA. Being a proletariat is not a subjective thing, it's an objective thing," the caller insisted. "Homer doesn't have to be class-conscious in order to be a member of the proletariat." Elder refused to back down, pointing out that Homer

had no aspirations or nobility. At this point McBride attempted to make peace by saying, "I think most of us are selfish in one way or another...In all groups, even groups that pretend to be altruistic, there are probably more Homers than we'd care to realize. They may be more subtle in their selfishness and in their exploitation than Homer, but I suspect there are Homers out there."

The program did end on an uplifting note with McBride admitting "*The Simpsons* is one of those very very few things in popular culture that I still have in common with my students."

When asked to comment on the show, Homer Simpson replied, "These guys that teach college. Sometimes their brains press too hard against their skulls and they get confused. That's all."

THE SIMPS IN BRIEF

- Marge Simpson was awarded Best Celebrity Hairstyle of '92, as reported by WWOR-TV in New York City.

- January 26, 1993, was declared Bart Simpson Day by San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan.

- Though Bill Clinton failed to appoint Lisa Simpson to be Secretary of State, despite the urgings of the 100,000-strong KCPQ-TV's Kids' Club in Tacoma, Washington, Bart Simpson did win enough votes in Stanford University elections to gain a seat in the Student Senate.

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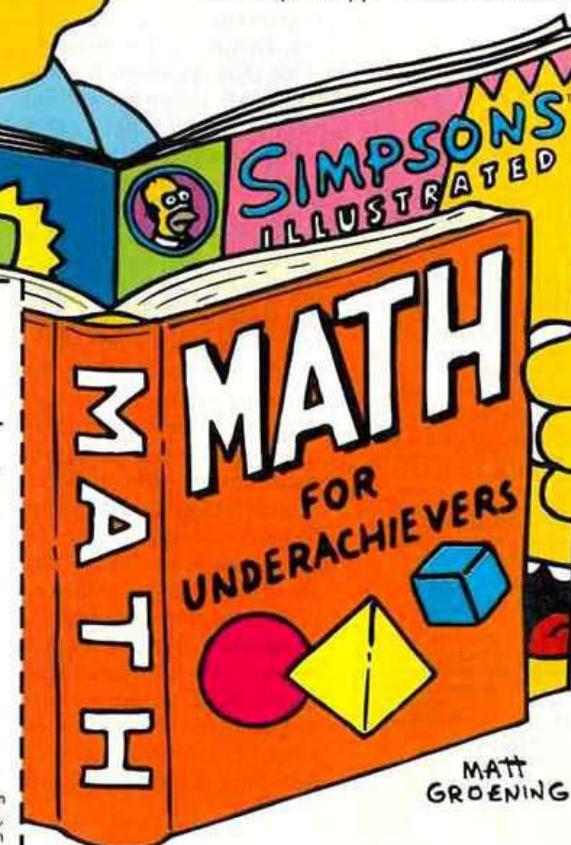
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MATT
GROENING

JUNK



MAIL

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Send your mail and pictures to: *Junk Mail*, Welsh Publishing Group, 300 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017. Please write on them, "For consideration for publication in *Simpsons Illustrated*. I agree if you publish my submission it becomes your property" and sign 'em. Thanks!

Dear Editor of the best magazine in the world, *Simpsons Illustrated*,

I have a little story to tell you. You know how in volume 1, issue 1, the "School Survival Handbook" has a warning on it that says not to let it fall into the hands of teachers, principals, etc.? Well, last year I was reading this magazine, in fact, that very article, in the hall at lunch, just minding my own business, when all of a sudden, our vice-principal, Mr. Cino, came out of nowhere and took my mag. I

was really nervous. I didn't know what he'd do to it. But instead of taking it away, he read it and started to laugh! (Boy, was I relieved!) Ever since then, we've had a great relationship.

However, this year he was transferred, and now we've got a new vice-principal, Mrs. Fort-Sells. She looks **John C. Brooks**, like she could use a laugh. Maybe I can find a way to get her to read that article.



See you in the funny pages,
Tammy Frakking
Niagara Falls, Ontario,
Canada

Dear *Simpsons Illustrated*,

I love your magazine. It is full of exciting and enjoyable info. Last school year

I got a detention for having The Simpsons School Rules thing that is in the back of each issue. Well, I better get going.

—Melissa Miller
Union, CA

Detention again, Melissa? Have you considered transferring to the Canadian school system (see previous letter)?

Dear Editor,
I love your magazines very much, especially the things in

them that pertain to the Simpsons' life. My question is this: Is it possible to obtain the Simpsons shorts from the *Tracey Ullman Show* on video? Thanks!

P.S. Looking forward to new episodes and the new album!

—Sabrina Stewart
Stanton,
CA

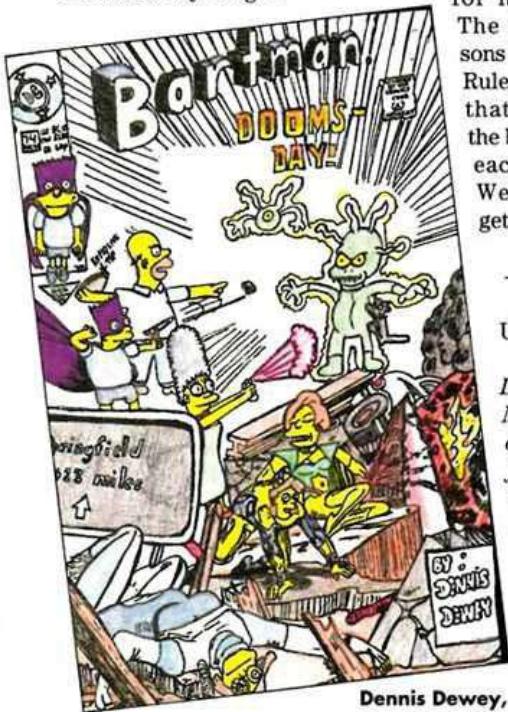
*Sorry, Sabrina, the Simpsons are still wearing those shorts. Seriously, at the moment there are no plans to release the *Tracey Ullman Show* episodes. As soon as we hear differently, we'll let you know.*

Michael Miller, East Stroudsburg, PA

cigarettes at the very spot where this statue now stands). Talk about coincidence!

Dear *Simpsons Illustrated*,

On the episode where Maggie speaks, she says "Daddy," but on the episode where Herb Powell goes to the Simpsons' house and borrows money to make a baby translator, how come Maggie can't



**Dennis Dewey,
Blanchard, OK**



"SITTING BART INDIAN CHIEF"
**Mathew Webster,
Wisconsin Rapids, WI**

real. My favorite character is Lisa Simpson (Yeardley Smith).

This statue of Maggie (I'm sure they didn't plan it) I found outside of a school in Wichita, Kansas.

—Keith Monson
Wichita, KS

Well, as fate would have it, that school is the old Alma Mater of our own Creative Director, Cindy Vance (who was once busted for smoking



Keith Monson, Wichita, KS



"BART URKEL" Andrea Waite, Edmonton, Canada

speak then?

On the episode where Homer has heart attacks, how did he stay alive after having that many?

Well, I guess that's it for now.

Simpsonly yours,

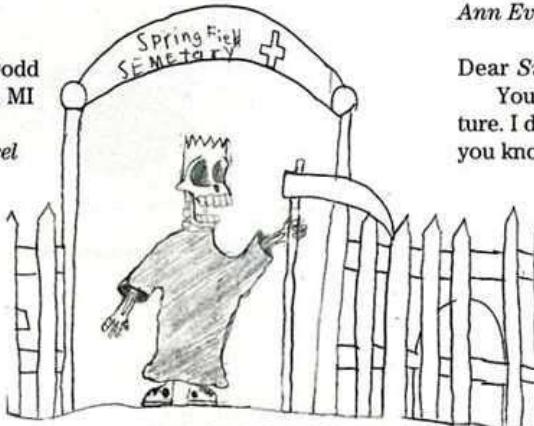
Joshua Dodd
Vassan, MI

Maggie just didn't feel like talking right then, Josh. As for Homer, medical science is still baffled — for many reasons.

Dear *Simpsons Illustrated*,

I did not like the *Simpsons Illustrated* of Winter 1993. It attacked the former President, George Bush, and former Vice President, Dan Quayle, too much. I read the letter from a Miss Jane Ann Evan from Henrietta, Texas. I didn't like the way she

attacked the President and Vice President. No one should attack the President or Vice President the way Miss Jane Ann Evan did. You should respect them whether you like



"THE GRIM SIMPSON"
Eric Peters, South Portland, ME

them or not. The (1-10) good deeds that Bart did weren't so outrageous, even though I like Bart. I may like your magazine and TV show very much, but

this winter edition went too far! I may be a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent, but I say everyone should respect the President and Vice President. Some people may not like the President or the Vice President but if they are smart they would respect them and not attack them. I have one question, and I would like a straight answer please! Are you Republicans or Democrats?

—Suzanne S. Badieozzaman
Huntington Beach, CA

*A straight answer? From us? You wrote to the wrong magazine, Suzanne! Just remember, freedom of expression is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, and we at *Simpsons Illustrated* respect your rights as much as we respect Jane Ann Evan's.*

Dear *Simpsons Illustrated*,
You didn't publish my picture. I didn't do it just for fun, you know.

—Aviva Zieleniec
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

We've inadvertently taught you an inexpensive yet important lesson, Aviva. If something isn't fun, it isn't worth doing in the first place. (We get hundreds of letters and pictures every issue. We print as many as we can, but please don't take it personally if yours isn't one of them.)

Dear Editor,

Enclosed, please find a picture of our Uncle Jimmy. If you ever have a Ned Flanders look-alike contest, I'd like to enter him. Uncanny, don't you think?

—Autumn Steitz
Clovis, CA

P.S. My Uncle Jimmy is left-handed and talks like Ned Flanders, too.



Autumn Steitz,
Clovis, CA

*Yikes! When we're casting the live-action *Simpsons* movie we'll give your Uncle Jimmy a call.*

Dear Editor,

In your latest edition, Winter 1993, there was a fold-out poster of the *Simpsons* characters. One of the Flanders children is missing on it. Why?

—Ryland Ferguson
Oregon City, OR

P.S. Why isn't Mrs. Flanders on it either?
P.P.S. This isn't meant to criticize; it's just a mere question.



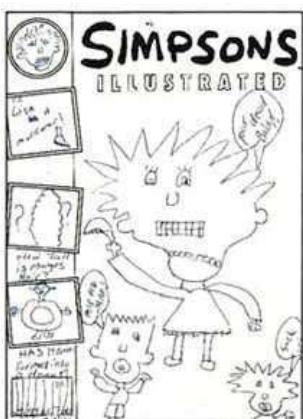
Quincy E. Batts,
Anchorage, AK



Andrew Sheppard II,
Lithonia, GA



Sarah Benson,
Virginia Beach, VA



Jaime Nemitt,
Toronto, OH

Rod Flanders is not pictured because it was he who took the photo. Meanwhile, Maude Flanders was busy setting up a simple yet elegant buffet dinner for everyone following the photo session.

Dear Editor,

When I first saw *Simpsons Illustrated* on the newsstand, I thought it would be childish or too young for someone my age (14 years old). When my sister bought it, I read it and it was very interesting and fun to read. It's also cool, because it has so much reader input. The editors really want to know what you think about the magazine.

Yours watchfully,

Nicolas Barr
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia,
Canada

Nothing beats sucking up to the editors as a way to get a letter printed, eh, Nic?

Dear *Simpsons Illustrated*,

I am a big *Simpsons* freak. I draw *Simpsons* on my books at school and draw pictures at home. I wish that *The Simpsons* was on three times a week. I just want to know one thing: why is Barney always at Moe's?

—Adrian
LeBlanc
Toronto,
Ontario,
Canada

Adrian dear,
Barney is a
drunk and
Moe's is
a bar.
It's like
asking
why a fish
is always in
water.

Peter Balsano,
Dorchester, Ontario, Canada

Dear Matt Groening,

In your 1992 summer issue of *Simpsons Illustrated*, you did a "Behind the Scenes" called "Bart from the Start," which showed how David Silverman, Wes Archer, and yourself created guidelines for the *Simpsons'* appearance.

I thought it was very creative how you guys designed these simple (almost) ways to draw the *Simpsons*.

Maybe you should make a book on how to create the *Simpsons* or make a similar copy of the "style book" open to the public. I think it would be a great addition to your growing series of *Simpsons* books.

—Kelly Kies
Phoenix, AZ
P.S. I hope no one else has thought of this!

"PAUL McBARTNEY"
Joe Teichman,
Owosso, MI

Sorry, Kelly,
s o m e o n e
already has —
our book editor. We're
working on it right now.
Tentatively titled "Cartooning With The *Simpsons*," it should be in the stores by Christmas.

Dear *Simpsons Animation*,

Hello, my name is Joe Chomiak, and I'm very interested in animation and creation for *The Simpsons*. I've seen every episode at least two times, studying their every move and action. The characters you've created are the top of the line. I've got all of the *Simpsons Illustrated*



Jason Coleman,
Goodlettsville, TN

magazines and enjoy them very much. I have a few questions I'd like you to answer, please:

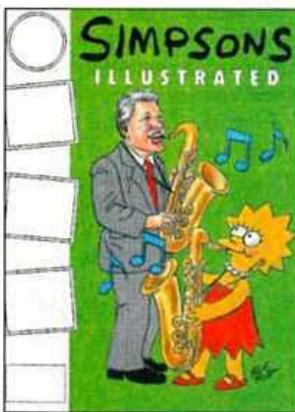
1. What classes or studies do you need to work at the *Simpsons* animation department?
2. How do you select your animators?
3. To work for *Simpsons* animation, do you need to have taken college courses?

These are just some of the questions I would like to ask. Please write back explaining this info.

Thanks.

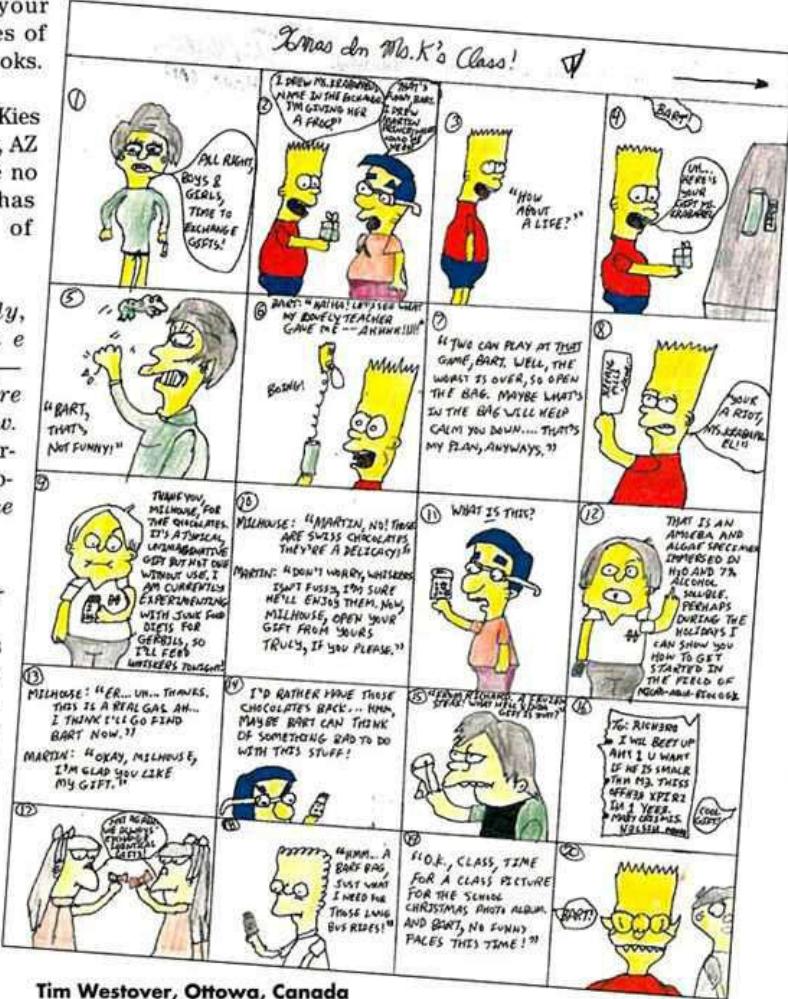
—Joe Chomiak
LaConner, WA

Animators are usually hired on the basis of a portfolio of



Robert McGee,
Albany, GA

sample drawings, Joe. Many develop their portfolios in college, while studying art. A lot of animators attend Cal Arts, a school near Los Angeles with a well-known animation program. Some studied animation on their own and never went to college. The real key is practice—LOTS of practice. Keep drawing, and good luck!



Tim Westover, Ottawa, Canada

Dear Editor,

I have noticed that during the opening animation, just as Homer leaves the power plant, Mr. Burns wiggles his hand as if to shake something off of it. Is this significant?

—James H. Vipond
Brookings, SD

The five o'clock whistle has just blown, signalling quitting time, but Burns' watch says 4:58. He's shaking it to see whether his watch has stopped or the whistle has blown early. (He later docked everyone two minutes' pay.)

Dear Matt Groening,

My sister just had a baby named Dario. (Too bad she wouldn't name him Bart, like I suggested.) With my older brother, I restored a cupboard that was originally built by my father's godfather before World War II, and offered it to Dario. We decided to paint the Simpson family on it because we are great fans.

—Samuel Durt
(El Durto)
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Mr. Groening,

I have a few questions about the magazine.

1. Is there ever going to be a profile (like Ms. Krabappel's desk, the Simpsons' refrigerator, Homer's work file, and so on) of Itchy and Scratchy's dressing room?

2. Will you ever make a fold-out poster of Radioactive

Man?

3. In the Winter 1992 issue, what was the emblem on the bottom row of stickers on Mrs. Krabappel's desk?

4. How big is a skosh (in "Ned Flanders' Top 40," Winter 1992)?

Also in the Winter 1992 issue, I tried all of the "Pulable Pranks" on my friends,

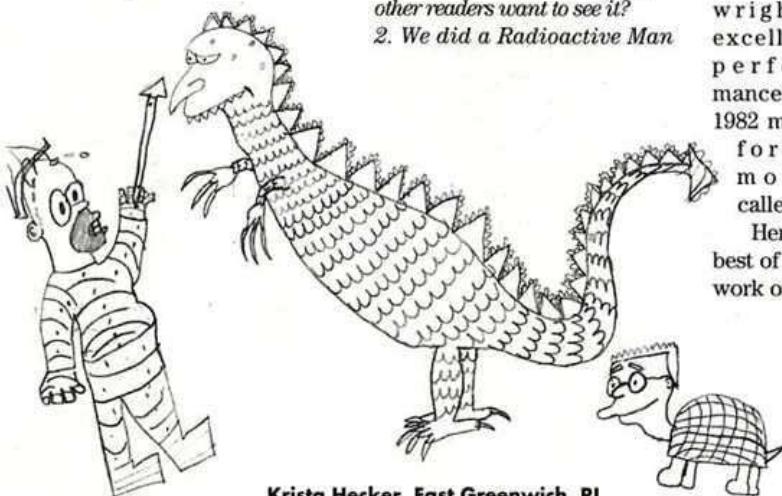


Samuel Durt,
Brussels, Belgium

teachers, parents, and the police chief. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. I will never have to use a whoopee cushion or whippersnapper again.

Sincerely (yeah, right!),
Justin Bellavita
Waldport, OR

1. *We'll consider it—do any of you other readers want to see it?*
2. *We did a Radioactive Man*



Krista Hecker, East Greenwich, RI

poster in the first issue of Simpsons Comics and Stories. If you missed it, you may be able to find a copy at your local comic shop.

3. *They said "See You Again Next Year."*

4. *Halfway between a smidge and a pinch.*

Dear Editor,

Do you know which twin is Sherri and which one is Terri? I can't tell the difference.

—Kerri Wolfensberger
Hagerstown, MD

Sherri has a birthmark in the shape of the nuclear power plant on her left shoulderblade—or is that Terri...?

Dear folks at Simpsons Illustrated,

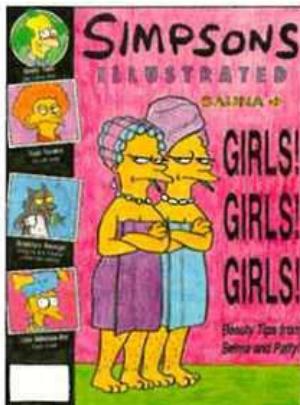
I really enjoyed the interview with Nancy Cartwright in the Fall 1992 issue. I've been a fan of Ms. Cartwright's excellent performance since the days when she was doing the voice of Gloria, Richie Rich's girlfriend. The interview was very good, though there was something that should have been mentioned.

The article should have mentioned Ms. Cartwright's excellent performance in a 1982 made-for-TV movie called *Marion Rose White*.

Here's wishing you guys the best of luck. Keep up the good work on *Simpsons Illustrated!*

—Peter W. Guerin
Hudson Falls, NY

Dear Editor,
I do not find the comic "William and



Anita Drieseberg,
Burlington, Ontario, Canada

Percy" funny. Sometimes it's so sloppy I can't read it. How old is the person who draws and writes the comic strip? I like the rest of the magazine a lot.

—Jennifer Hewson
East Meadow, NY



Internationally famous artist/cartoonist Gary Panter designed the sets for Pee-wee's Playhouse, has done album covers for such artists as The Red Hot Chili Peppers and Frank Zappa, and created the cartoon character Jimbo. Chronologically speaking, at least, he is a full-grown adult.

Dear person or persons who are reading this,

You guys don't really tell us readers much about the family, like, for instance, what is Homer's middle name? You might have already said it, but I missed it. A lot of my friends think I'm weird 'cause I'm so crazy about Bart. They also don't believe his middle name is Jo Jo. Where did he get it, anyway?

Do whatever you do, and I'll be on my way.

—Seth Pettig
St. Charles, MI

Homer claims that he, like President Harry S. Truman, has no middle name, just a middle initial. Bart got his middle name as a result of Homer losing a bar bet.

Dear S.I.,

Regarding Joshua Olson's letter to your publication in the Fall 1992 issue, what the heck does "maliferous" mean (and how is it that a giant sea turtle could assist a two-year-old with a letter)? I don't understand.

I searched for the definition of "maliferous" in my home dictionary and those in the public and school libraries with no success. For those of us who read the text and do not just look at the pictures, we need to know!

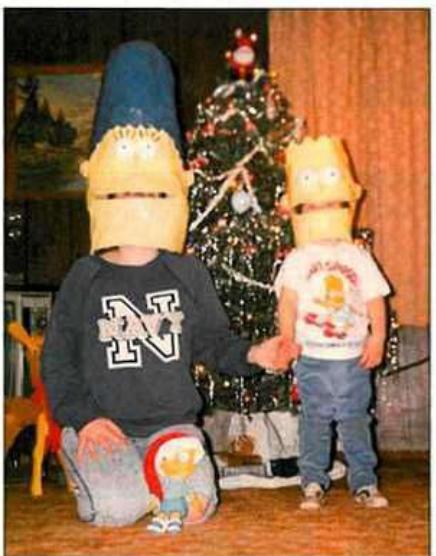
Sincerely,

Tom Vass
Prospect Heights, IL

"Maliferous" means "a state of irritation or confusion caused by being tricked into looking up nonexistent words in the dictionary."

Dear Sirs,

I thought I would share these masks with you. The



Carolyn Corner, Elkins, WV

"Bart" mask was made because my boy is a Bart Simpson nut. He is only 3 years old



"HILLBILLY HOMER"
Sharla Kistner, Fair Grove, MO

but knows who Bart is. He also acts like him.

We also made a "Marge" mask. We haven't got around to making "Homer" yet, but he is on the agenda.

—Carolyn Comer
Elkins, WV

Dear *Simpsons Illustrated*,

My favorite section in the Winter 1993 issue is "Colossal Retorts," because my mom and dad are always bugging me about my room. In fact, I'm supposed to be cleaning my room right now.

Your friend,
Jenny Wildermuth
Port Byro, IL

Writing us instead of cleaning your room? It's always good to know that our readers have their priorities straight, Jen.

Dear *Simpsons Illustrated*,

Thank you for your show. Our oldest daughter decided to play saxophone like Lisa and is now in her second year of music lessons. Her version of "Jingle Bell Rock" is wonderful.

As long as I am writing, have you heard this one? Any name ending in the word "son" signifies "son of": "Davidson" means "son of David," "Johnson" means "son of John." By this theory, "Simpson" means "son of Simp." Who was the original Simp?

—Mary Gollihugh,
North East, PA

The original Simp was Homer Erectus who, tens of thousands of years ago, led his family down from the trees in hopes of finding a donut shop.

Dear Mr. Groening,

I wanted to write so I could tell you how much I enjoy *The Simpsons*. I have some questions about the characters.

1. Why don't Lisa, Bart, and Maggie have hairlines? Is it easier to draw?
2. Whatever happened to Homer's mom? Did she die in childbirth?
3. Will there ever be a *Simpsons* movie?
4. Will Laura (Bart's love) ever be on the show again?
5. Will Maggie ever talk on the show again?
6. How much longer will the show be on TV?

Your show's the best! All of my friends hate it. Most people are too blind to see the morals of the show. My favorite episode was "New Kid on the Block." My favorite character is Marge.

Your show is the most realistic I've ever

seen. I LOVE THE SIMPSONS!

Simpsonly yours,
Shana Snyder
St. Thomas, PA



Mary Gollihugh,
North East, PA

Either educate your old friends or get new ones, Shana. As for your questions:

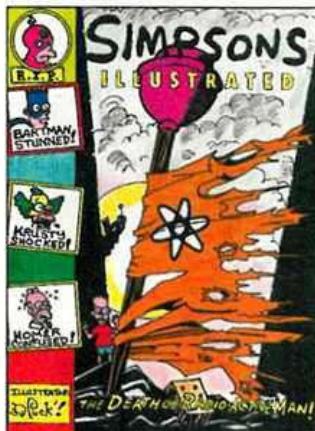
1. Matt likes the way they look without hairlines.
2. Homer's mom said she was going to the store one day and never came back.
3. Maybe, if Matt and the crew can find the time and if Bart drops his demand for a chauffeur-driven monster truck to drive him to the set every day.
4. Probably not, unless you count reruns.
5. Only if she gets to write her own dialogue.
6. Until Matt feels that enough people have been sufficiently annoyed by the show.



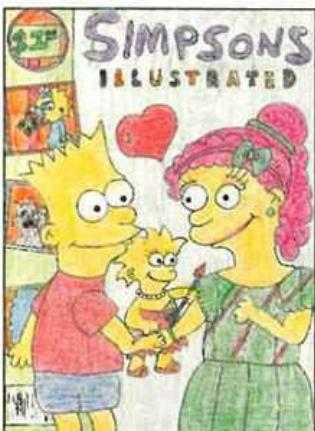
"HOMER SNOW WHITE" Jordan Masselli, Muskegon, MI

COVER US, INDEED!

Once again, you, our dear readers, have come through with flying colors. And once again our offices have been inundated with cartload upon cartload of artwork spawned by your twisted and tortured minds. On display here are a few we skimmed off the top (we could wade only so far into the room!). Thank you all for contributing. And no, you don't get any prizes...just the everlasting glory of having your work printed here. So be thankful, ingrates!



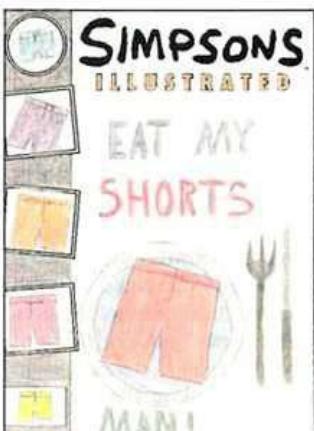
David Puckett,
Cave City, KY



Taopat Kao,
New York, NY



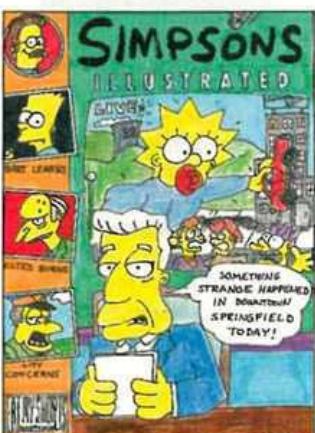
Chris MacLennan,
Newcastle, ME



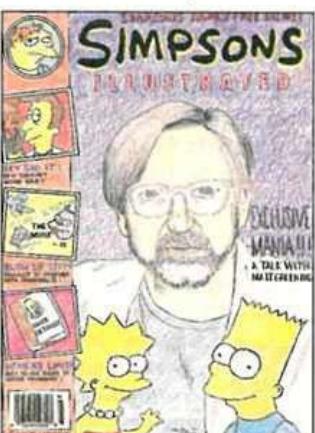
Chris Lattemann,
Oley, PA



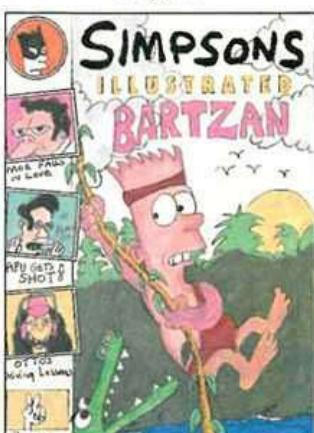
Debra Jean Hopkins,
Vista, CA



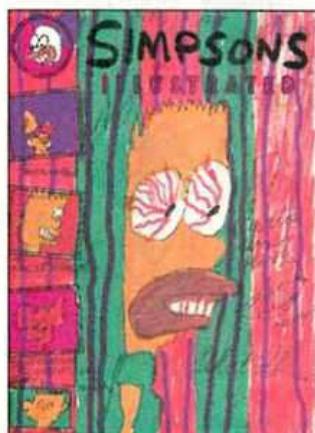
Dean Konop,
Two Rivers, WI



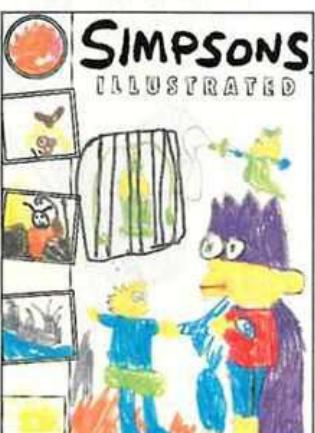
Dustin Hoffman,
Oil City, PA



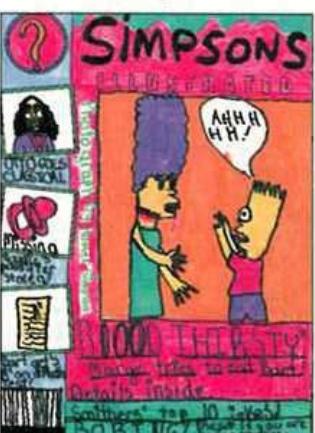
Rafael Bedolla,
La Habra, CA



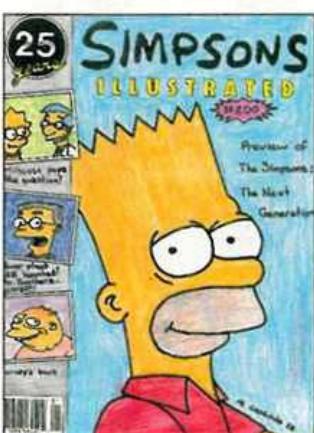
Kenny King,
Alameda, CA



Jerry Hume,
Marquette, MI



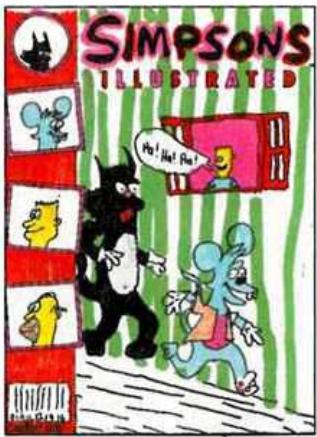
Rose Davis,
Laurel, NJ



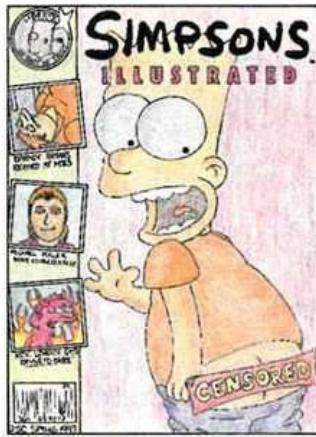
Steven M. Smith
Albuquerque, NM



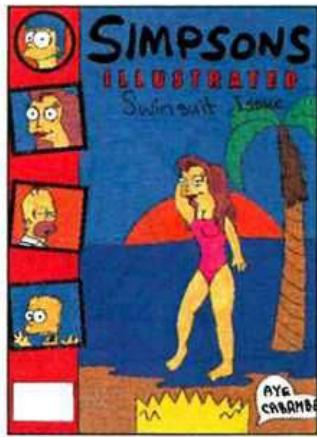
Tammy Frakking,
Niagara Falls, Ont., CAN



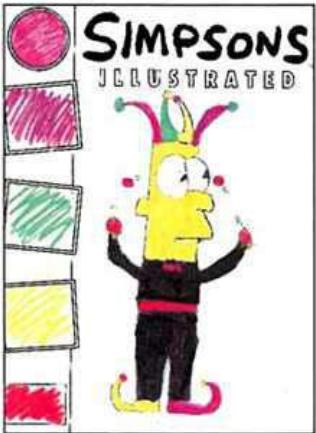
Jean-Pierre Dubois-Godin,
Orleans, Ont., CAN



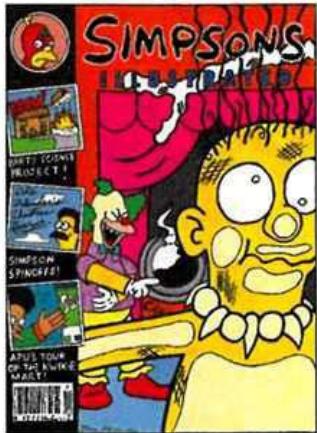
Michael Miller,
East Stoudsburg, PA



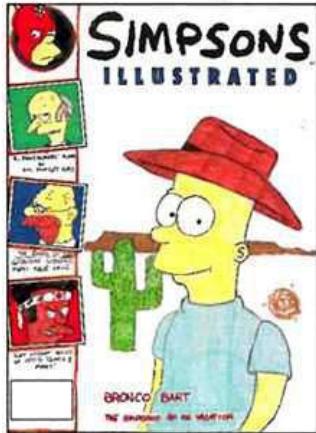
Cody Dingle,
Kelsey, CA



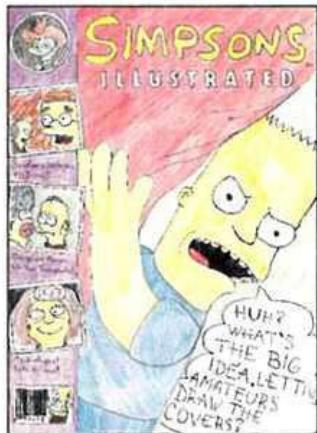
Trevor Austin Kirby,
Denver, CO



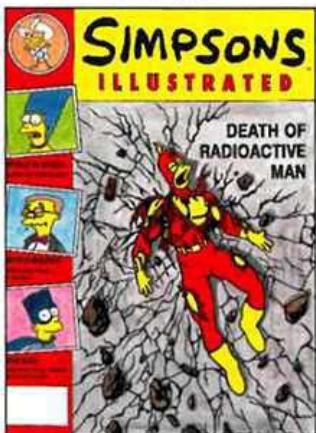
Blain Hefner,
Iowa Park, TX



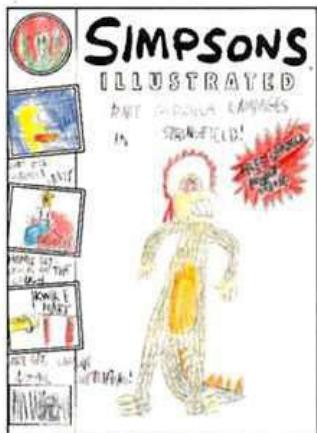
Kyle Helton,
Floyd, NM



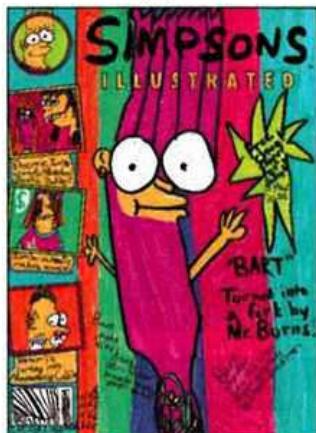
Kelly Marie Masters,
Collierville, NY



Kirk Jason Beins,
Republic of Singapore



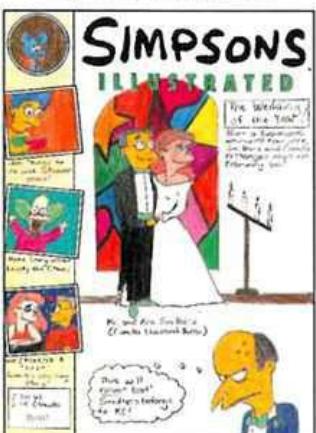
Tory Newmyer,
Washington, D.C.



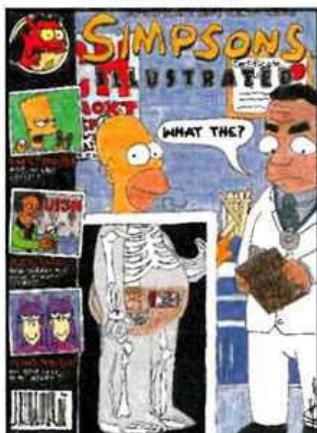
Kristina Davis,
Rifle, CO



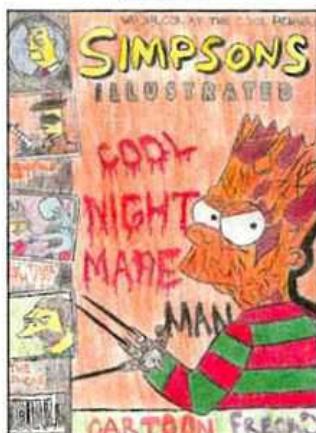
Michelle Vega,
Austin, TX



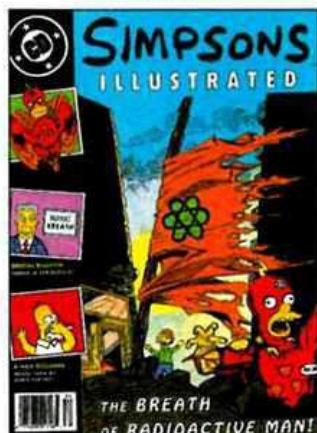
Amy Tarr,
Washburn, ME



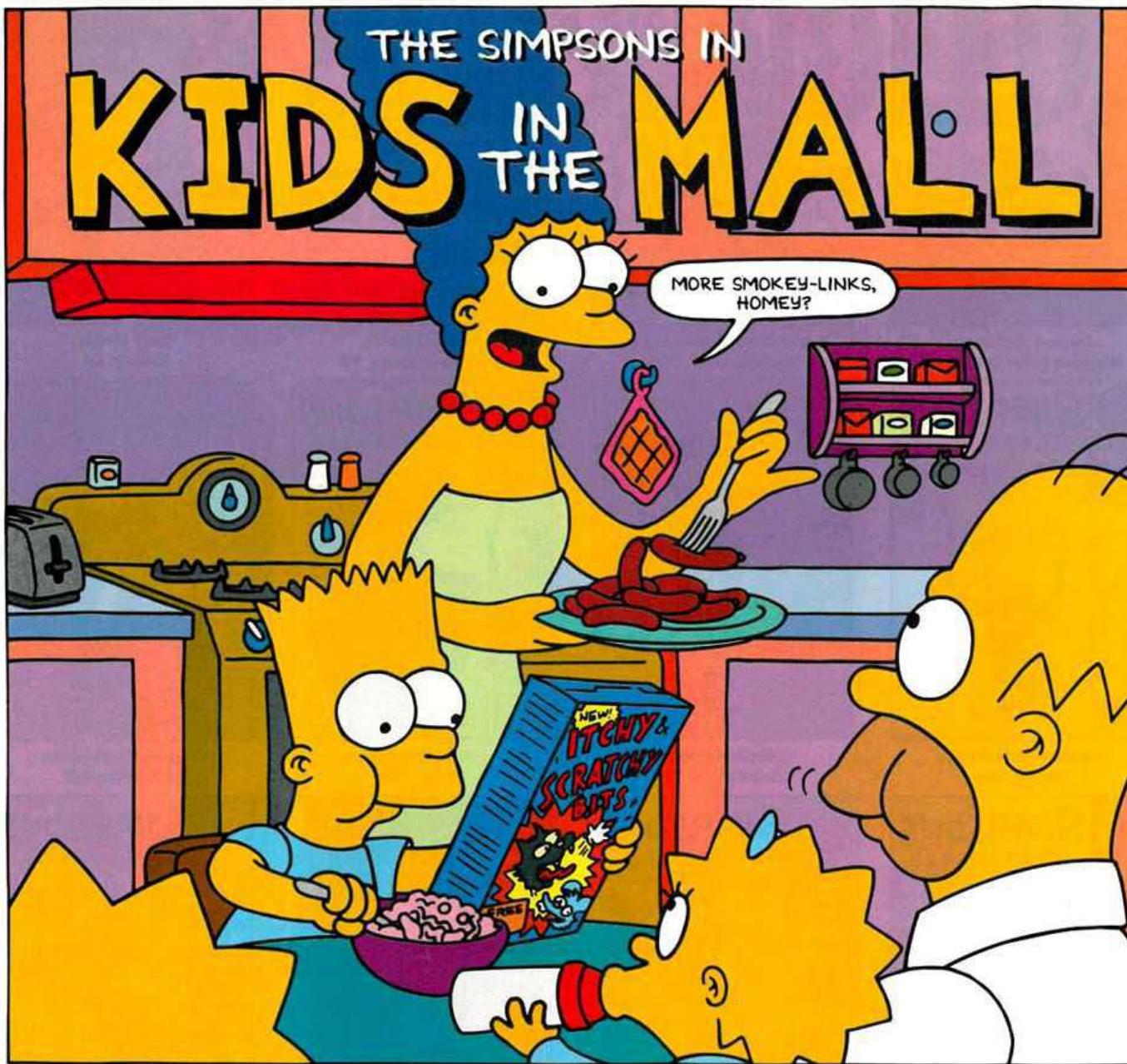
Mike Haire,
Matsqui, B.C., CAN



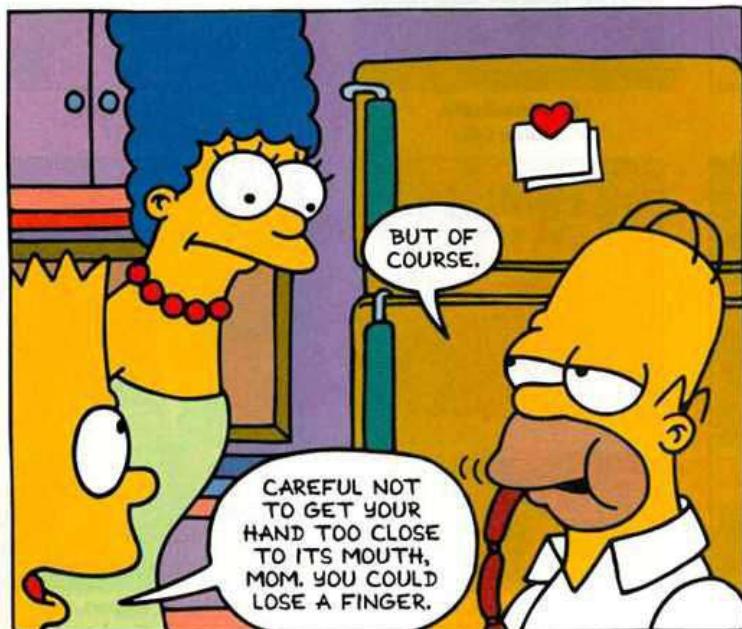
Javier Barahona,
La Puente, CA

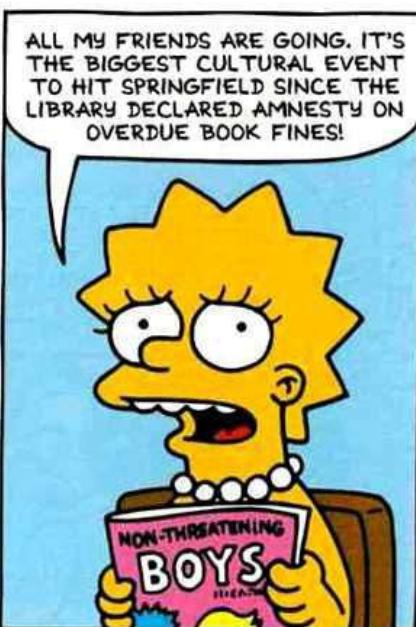


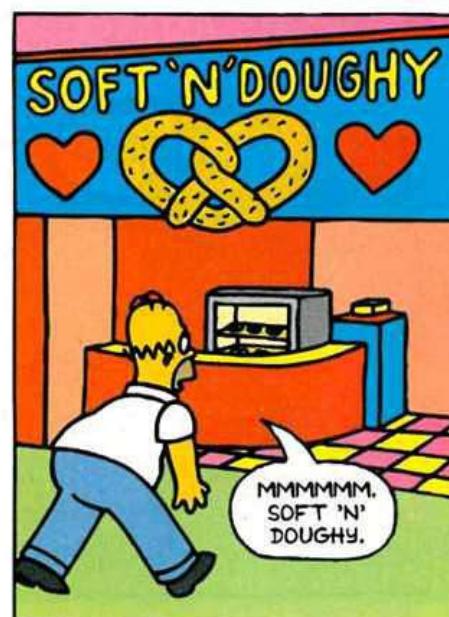
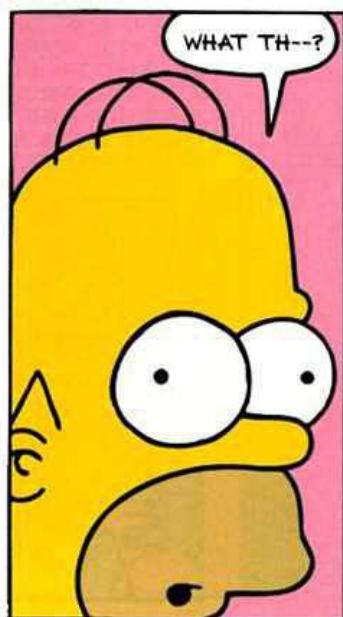
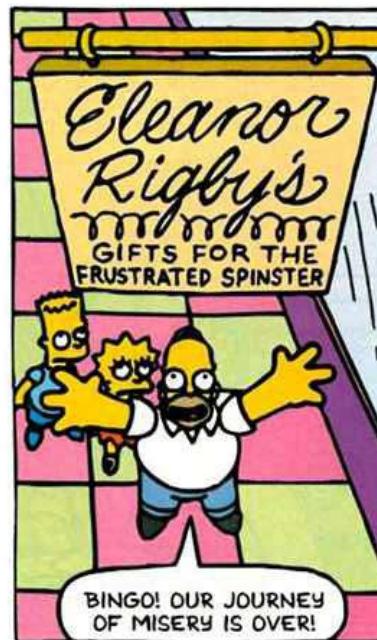
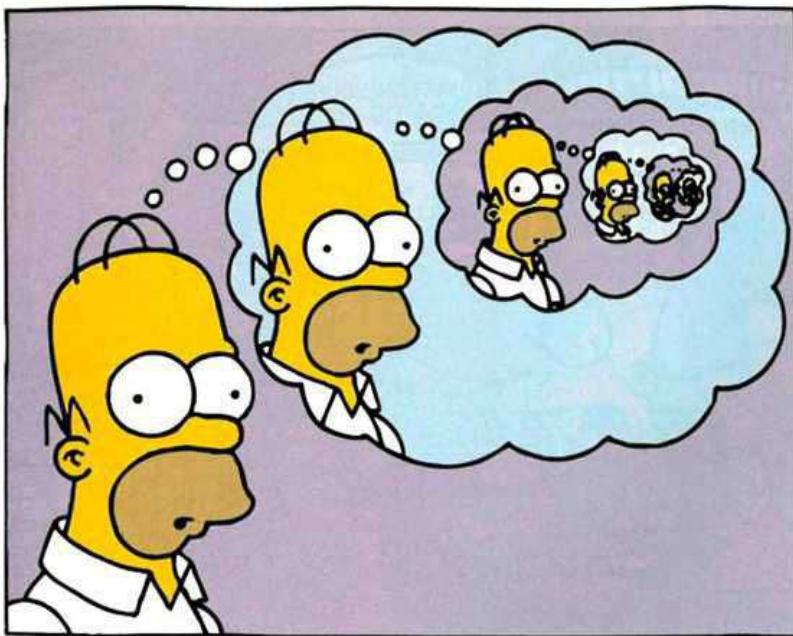
Martin Gilbert,
St. Augustin, Quebec, CAN

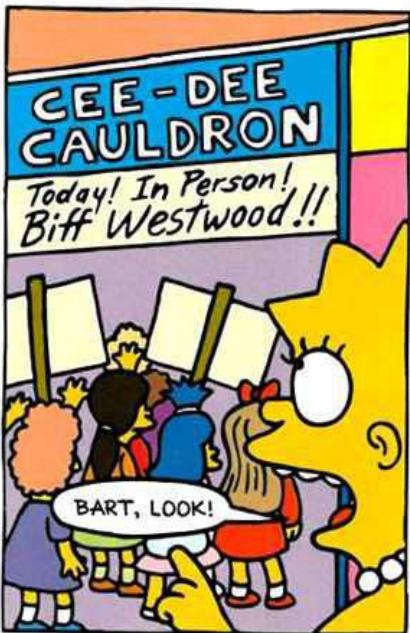


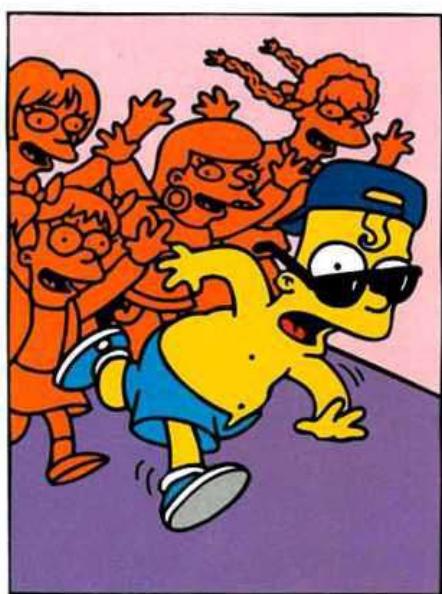
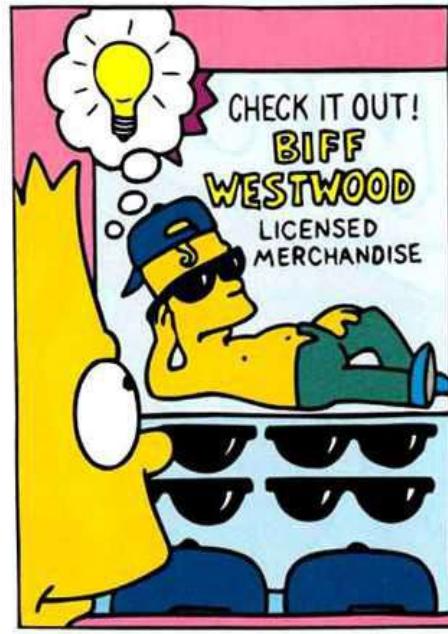
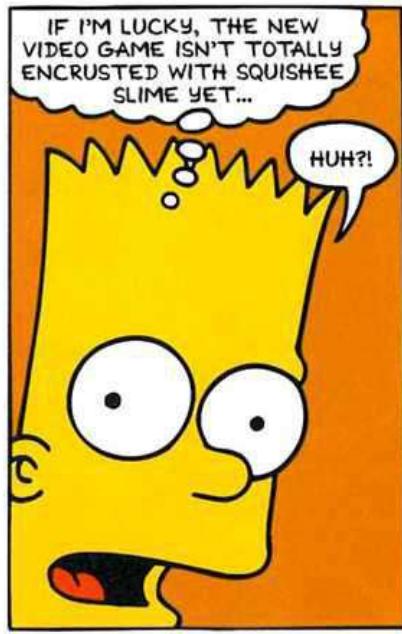
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BEHIND THE SCENES

EXPLAINING GROENING

One-on-one with the sultan of fun.

By Jamie Angell



BEHIND THE SCENES



Photos by Ann Summa

I have known Matt Groening longer than I'd care to remember. He has been making me laugh and getting me into trouble since grade school. We were kicked off our school newspaper, and elected to student government. We formed the infamous Banana Gang and its rival, the Teens for Decency, as well as the Komix Appreciation Klub, an organization devoted to publicizing and reporting elaborate conferences and raucous parties that never took place. Due to the statute of limitations I am unable to reveal more recent events, but I can tell you that he was partially responsible for my changing my name for four years.

—Jamie Angell

THE EARLY YEARS OF STRUGGLE: Angell (left) and Groening intentionally writing the worst poetry imaginable to submit to the high school literary magazine.



MATT GROENING: Question?

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Question?

GROENING: I'm waiting.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Oh! All right. I thought you were just . . . ummm . . . oh.

GROENING: I'm not gonna rant. Have to respond.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: I'd rather you rant, but . . . What do you hope *The Simpsons* does to people who watch it?

GROENING: Well, you know how irritating it is when other people try to change you?

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Mmm-hmm.

GROENING: But trying to change other people — that is one of the greatest delights in the world. So I try to delight myself.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Can you change them?

GROENING: Irritate them. I mean change them.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Irritate and change them.

GROENING: It's always fun — kids know this — to tell a joke that makes all the kids laugh but which confuses and annoys the teacher. And that's what I try to do as a grown-up — entertain part of the audience and annoy another part. I don't want to get too scientific, but you can divide people into two groups: the Daffy Ducks and the Elmer Fudds. The Daffys are the people who laugh and annoy other people, and the Elmers are the ones who don't laugh and get annoyed. And there's plenty of 'em.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: That's true.

GROENING: Which makes life very fun. 'Cause if you're a Daffy Duck, you *must* try to provoke the Elmer Fudds. The

fact is, Elmers are annoying too, so if you can annoy them back, and also make the Daffys happy, then you not only feel entertained, you also feel . . . morally superior.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: When did you first get an inkling of

this Elmer/Daffy theory?

GROENING: It happened in the first grade, when kids are pretty innocent little creatures. We were all standing in a circle out on the playground, and Mrs. Hoover said, "Quiet, children," and I, in my youthful exuberance, let loose with this high-pitched shriek.

And Mrs. Hoover said, "All right, who blew that whistle?" Well, there was no whistle, it was just me shrieking, so I clammed up, and Mrs. Hoover went crazy searching the kids for the whistle. It was quite amusing. She couldn't believe that these little six-year-olds were denying they knew who had that whistle. But there was no whistle. That was the crafty part.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: So you kind of stumbled into it.

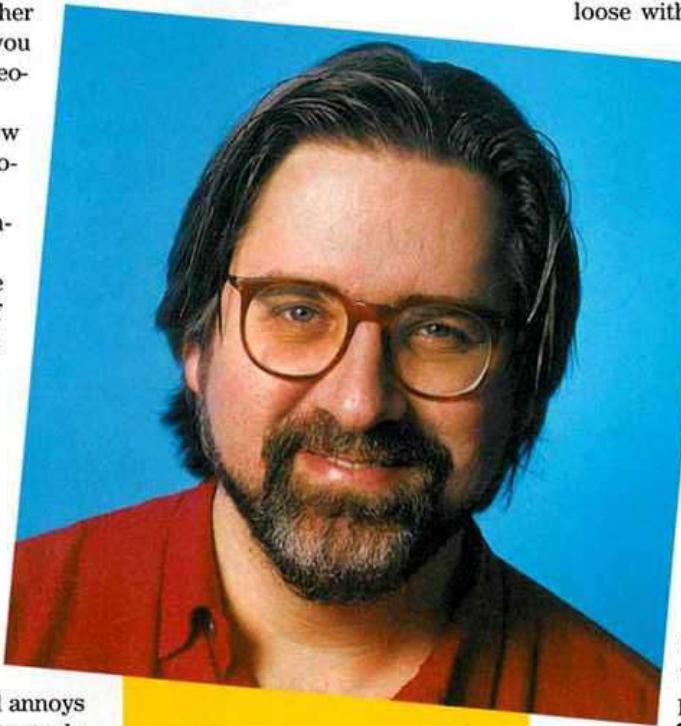
GROENING: And the rest of my life has been blowing invisible whistles and making people wonder.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Did you find you had any allies, or were you pretty much blowing a whistle by yourself?

GROENING: Well, you were a co-conspirator, Jamie. And *The Simpsons* is staffed by a bunch of people who you can tell were wisemen when they were kids.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Was it more difficult to be a Daffy Duck when you were younger?

GROENING: Too many school rules are arbitrarily assigned just because grown-



"You can divide people into two groups: Daffy Ducks and Elmer Fudds."

ups feel kids should be controlled. Most kids are creative and rambunctious enough to realize that these rules are stupid, but they instinctively humor adults. There are some great, dedicated teachers out there working under appalling conditions, and they need all the support they can get. But even the outstanding teachers often get engulfed by the edicts from above, which makes their good work that much more difficult.

And over the years the good teachers and the kids are gradually forced to buckle down and comply with arbitrary authority. It seems the main rule that traditional schools teach is how to sit in rows quietly, which is perfect training for grown-up work in a dull office or factory, but not so good for education.

And what a few of us did is realize, Hey, that's not the life for us — so we started trying to entertain ourselves. Sometimes that entertainment took the form of pointless pranks and dimwitted wisecracking. But some of it was more creative. We did puppet shows, drew cartoons, wrote plays, made movies, drew comic books, and all the rest.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: If, as a kid, most everyone has a sense that things are screwy, how is it that, as adults, we perpetuate the screwiness?

GROENING: Well, most grown-ups forget what it was like to be a kid. I vowed that I would never forget. I also found child's play — stuff that was not considered serious, but goofy — was the stuff I liked to do, so I still do it as an adult. Living creatively is really important to maintain throughout your life. And living creatively doesn't mean only artistic creativity, although that's part of it. It means being yourself, not just complying with the wishes of other people.

The dismal reality is that a lot of people have to work at crummy jobs that they don't want to do. But even if you have a crummy job, you have to save a part of yourself, maybe a secret part, and do the things you want, so that you can be yourself. I'd like to



**"Most grown-ups
forget what it
was like to be
a kid. I vowed
I would never
forget."**

think that's one of the hidden messages of *The Simpsons*. It's a show about people who don't know that secret, but the making of the show is an example of that secret. Sometimes people get mad at *The Simpsons'* subversive story telling, but there's another message in there, which is a celebration of making wild, funny stories.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Why is it that so many people think the Simpsons are bad role models?

GROENING: A lot of people believe that if everybody just did what they were told — obeyed — everything would be fine. But that's not what life is all about. That's not real. It's never going to happen.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Then why do they believe it?

GROENING: I'm not sure. Psychologically, you know, as infants, we think we're omnipotent. We think we've created the universe and that everything responds to our whims. Then lousy reality sets in. We find out that the world does not correspond to our vision, and some of us continue to fight back for the rest of our lives. I'm not saying that people on the other side are wrong. I just think theirs is not an attitude which brings any kind of profound happiness. In fact, if anything, it brings profound unhappiness.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: It seems like they're trying to live some idea of a correct life rather than living their own life.

GROENING: One of the things I like to do is make up stories that I would have enjoyed when I was a kid. So, if I'm thinking about an audience, it's usually a younger version of myself. When I watch *The Simpsons* I think, "Man, I would've really liked this cartoon when I was a kid."

If I could speak from the future to my younger self, I'd say a couple of things: Keep your spirits up, because things are going to get a lot better when you get out of high school. You're going to meet a lot more people who are interested in creative weirdness as a social activity. And: Save your work! No matter how stupid you think it is at the time. Keep a diary. Keep drawing. Save your art. Save your comic books. Especially save your comic books.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Yeah. Definitely. Boy.

GROENING: And put the stuff in a cardboard box and keep it in your closet. And when you go away to college, or to your job at the oyster-shucking factory, don't let your mom throw it away — take it with you. And don't touch any of the stuff in the box until you've washed the oyster juice off your hands.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What else do you do outside *The Simpsons*?

GROENING: I draw a weekly comic strip called *Life in Hell*, which is syndicated in about 250 newspapers. That's what I did before *The Simpsons*, and what I plan to do for the rest of my life.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What do you

MATT'S TOP 100

BOOK, MOVIE, MUSIC, TV, COMIC STRIP, OTHER

1. Vietnamese spring rolls or sex.
2. Frank Zappa's *Lumpy Gravy*, *Uncle Meat*, *Burnt Weenie Sandwich*, *Hot Rats*, *The Yellow Shark*, etc.
3. Scuba diving.
4. Lynda Barry's *Ernie Pook's Comeek*.
5. Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* (2-piano version).
6. Gary Panter's *Jimbo*.
7. *The Wizard of Oz*, directed by Victor Fleming.
8. Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* and *Something Happened*.
9. Carol Reed's *The Third Man*.
10. Oliver Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony* and *Oiseaux Exotiques*.
11. J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*.
12. Satyajit Ray's *Apu* trilogy.
13. Charlie Chaplin's *The Circus*.
14. Raymond Scott's "Powerhouse".
15. Lee "Scratch" Perry's *Blackboard Jungle Dub*.
16. Stanley Kubrick's *Lolita* and *Dr. Strangelove*.
17. Sam Raimi's *Evil Dead II*.
18. Yma Sumac's *Mambô*.
19. Ernie Bushmill's *Nancy and Slaggo* comic strips.
20. Buster Keaton's *Seven Chances* and *Steamboat Bill Jr.*
21. Irvin D. Yalom's *Existential Psychotherapy*.
22. Anything by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys and Milton Brown and His Musical Brownies.
23. Henry A. Shute's *The Real Diary of a Real Boy*.
24. Anything by the Comedian Harmonists.
25. Dr. Seuss's *On Beyond Zebra*.
26. Ronald Searle's *The Female Approach*.
27. Mal Waldron and Eric Dolphy's *The Quest*.
28. G. Legman's *Rationale of the Dirty Joke* and *No Laughing Matter*.
29. A Volta, by Ed Lincoln (1966 Brazilian album)—if anyone knows where I can get a stereo copy of this, let me know.
30. Nino Rota's *Juliet of the Spirits* soundtrack.
31. Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra's *Glen Gray in Hi-Fi*.
32. Anything by Erik Satie.
33. Tom Kah Kai soup.
34. Captain Beefheart and the Magic Band's *Trot Mask Replica*.
35. The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.
36. *Ren & Stimpy*.
37. SCTV.
38. David Letterman.
39. Albert Brooks's *Lost in America*.
40. Wim Wenders's *Wings of Desire*.
41. Son House's *Death Letter*.
42. Jackie Chan's *Project A, Part 2*.
43. *The Avengers* (with Diana Rigg).
44. Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle*.
45. Eric Knights's *You Play the Black and the Red Comes Up*.
46. Anything by Bob & Ray.
47. Toli Kupferberg's *1001 Ways to Beat the Draft*.
48. Tobias Wolff's *This Boy's Life*.
49. *The Trumpet Kings Meet Big Joe Turner*.
50. *Green Acres*.
51. R.D. Laing's *Knots*.
52. *Kids in the Hall*.
53. *The Fugs* "It Crawled Into My Hand, Honest.
54. Carl Barks' *Uncle Scrooge* comics.
55. "Mistakes," by *Madness*.
56. *Thrill Store Paintings*, edited by Jim Shaw.
57. Richard Lester's *How I Won the War*.
58. Nicole Hollander's *Sylvia*.
59. Cartoons by Heather MacAdams.
60. David Boswell's *Reid Fleming*, *World's Toughest Milkman* comics.
61. Peter Bagge's *Hate* comics.
62. Daniel Clowes' *Eightball* comics.
63. *The Bonzo Dog Band's Cornology*.
64. *Suburbia*, a book of photographs by Bill Owens.
65. Doug Allen's *Steven* comics.
66. *Bananas*.
67. Dennis P. Eichorn's *Real Stuff* comics.
68. Anything by "Big" John Patton (my favorite jazz organist).
69. "Man in the Street," by Don Drummond (classic driving 1965 ska instrumental).
70. Andrew Sarris's *The American Cinema: Directors and Directions 1929-1968*.
71. George Antheil's *Ballet Mechanique*.
72. *The Complete Tex Avery* (laserdisc box).
73. Eric Barne's *Games People Play*.
74. William Cameron Menzies's *Invasion from Mars*.
75. James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*.
76. "Crazy," by Patsy Cline.
77. Henry Koste's *Armchair in Hell*.
78. Raymond Carver's *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*
79. George Miller's *The Road Warrior*.
80. William Kotzwinkle's *The Fan Man*.
81. Robert Grudin's *Time and the Art of Living*.
82. Alice Miller's *The Drama of the Gifted Child*.
83. *The Wizard of Oz*, by Salman Rushdie (British Film Institute book on the film).
84. John Lennon's *In His Own Write* and *A Spaniard in the Works*.
85. Art by Kenny Scharf.
86. Martin Denny's *Exotica*.
87. Flannery O'Connor's *Collected Stories*.
88. *Peewee's Playhouse*.
89. John Cleese's *Fawlty Towers*.
90. Esquivel's *Infinity in Sound Vol. 2*.
91. Dr. Seuss's *The 5000 Fingers of Dr. T.*
92. David Greenberger's *Duplex Planet* magazine.
93. *Kampung Boy* and *Town Boy*, by Lat (Malaysian cartoonist's autobiographical books—I'm desperate for copies of these).
94. Jim Woodring's *Frank in the River* comics.
95. Harvey Pekar's *American Splendor* comics.
96. *The Golden Age of Looney Toons*, Vols. 1-3 (laserdisc boxes).
97. *Cartoons* by Rowland Emmett (old *Punch* cartoonist).
98. *Joel and Ethan Coen's Blood Simple*.
99. *A Critique of Religion and Philosophy* by Walter Kaufmann.
100. Any video bloopers featuring small animals biting TV personalities.

use to draw your strip?

GROENING: I use Rotring rapidograph pens, which come with easy-to-change ink cartridges. The pens are color-coded—I use the blue one (.70) to draw the characters and dialog, the brown one (.50) to draw very tiny lettering, and the orange one (2.0) to draw dialog balloons and the edges of the frames. I draw it twice as large as it's printed, on two-ply Bristol paper, and shrink it down. When you shrink things down, it reduces the wobbliness of the lines—and I need all the help I can get.

I used to use a Koh-I-Noor Art Pen, the one with a yellow barrel and a very flexible nib, but the company stopped making it, and didn't respond to my desperate plea to buy any extras lying around the warehouse. If anyone out there knows how I can get this pen, or at least its nibs, please contact

Simpsons Illustrated. A frustrated cartoonist will be very grateful.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What did you draw with when you were a kid?

GROENING: Felt-tip pens, which are really fun to draw with, but I warn you: they fade. Eventually the ink will disappear. You've got to draw on good paper, too. Otherwise, the paper will turn as yellow as the *Simpsons*, and eventually crumble.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED:

Did you plan to become a cartoonist?

GROENING: I never thought that I would, because all my friends could draw better than I could, except you.

(Bemused laughter)

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: And that's the truth.

(Frivolity continues)

GROENING: I met Lynda Barry at The Evergreen State College—cool place, no grades—and she was drawing crazy cartoons at the time. Her cartoons were so wild, they inspired me to continue plugging away.

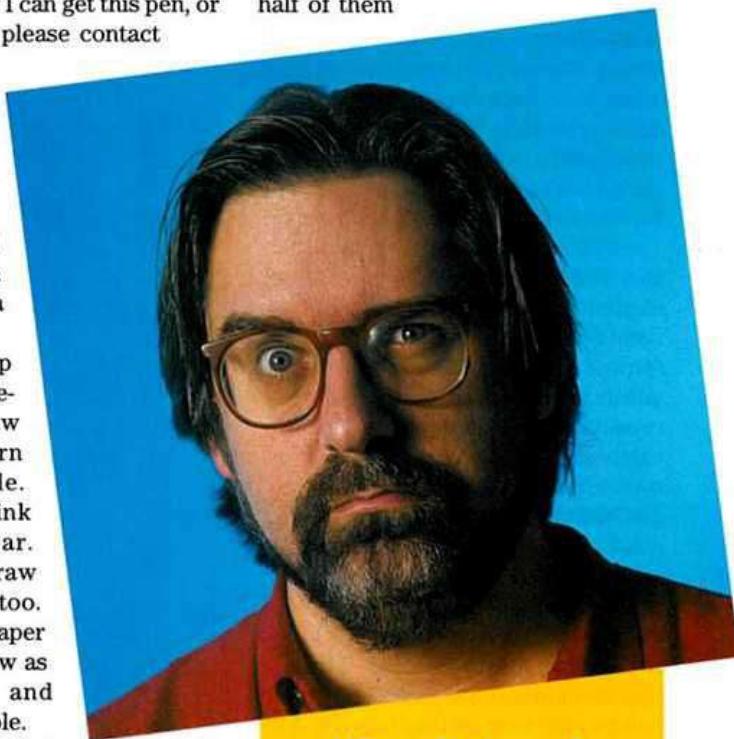
SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What other in-

spirations do you draw on?

GROENING: I love checking out just about everything that's put out for entertainment and intellectual consumption: music, art, movies, TV, literature, advertising, pinball machines, bubble gum cards, cereal boxes, black velvet portraits of the Smurfs. I try not to let anything in our culture be either too high or too low for me. I have a little trouble with stuff at the very bottom at the pile, the mean, ugly stuff. And I also have real problems with 19th-century French art songs.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Clearly, you make a lot of references to popular culture, both high and low, in *The Simpsons*.

GROENING: That's not just me. A lot of talented writers work on the show, half of them



**"Don't touch
any of the stuff
in the box until
you've washed
the oyster juice
off your hands."**

Harvard geeks. And you know, when you study the semiotics of *Through the Looking Glass* or watch every episode of *Star Trek*, you've got to make it pay off, so you throw a lot of study references into whatever you do later in life.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: How do you feel about the magnitude of *The Simpsons'* success?

GROENING: It's impossible to keep in mind how many millions of people watch TV. The numbers continue to stagger me. Another staggering thing is the huge number of people who have jobs because of *The Simpsons*. It's spun off into merchandising, books, syndication, advertising, law suits, and this magazine. These freakish little doodles keep a lot of people gainfully employed, at least part-time.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Hallelujah.

GROENING: *The Simpsons* is an especially collaborative show. Jim Brooks, a true genius, gave me my first break on *The Tracey Ullman Show*, and he's always fought to maintain a level of emotional realism in *The Simpsons* when the temptation is to just go wacky. I'm grateful to Mike Reiss and Al Jean, who are brilliantly funny workaholic writers, a rare combination. They pushed the show into more ambitious and complicated areas. And the writers, despite eating habits almost as grotesque as my own [see "Trapped! In a Room Full of Junk Food: A Conversation with the Writers of *The Simpsons*," *Simpsons Illustrated*, Vol. 1, No. 4, Winter 1992] have also been unbelievably great: Jon Vitti, George Meyer, Jeff Martin, John Swartzwelder, David Stern, Frank Mula, Conan O'Brien, Jay Kogen, and Wally Wolodarsky.

We've got a mostly new gang of writer/producers for next season, and in general they have much healthier eating habits, so we'll see if the show suffers.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Do you have the same appreciation for the show's animation?

GROENING: Because good writing in a TV cartoon is so rare, I think the animation on *The Simpsons* is often overlooked. But the job the directors do — under a grueling schedule — is always amazing. It's easy to get complacent about the visuals on the show, since we don't do a lot of dazzling animation

effects that call attention to this goofy medium. But the acting, sense of place, and pacing are all top-notch. David Silverman and Wes Archer have been with Bart since the prehistoric days, and over the years they've been joined by Brad Bird, Rick Moore, Mark Kirkland, Jim Reardon, Jeff Lynch, and Carlos Baeza, all of whom have distinctive styles and odd quirks that make the show unpredictable.

But it's not just the writers and animators.

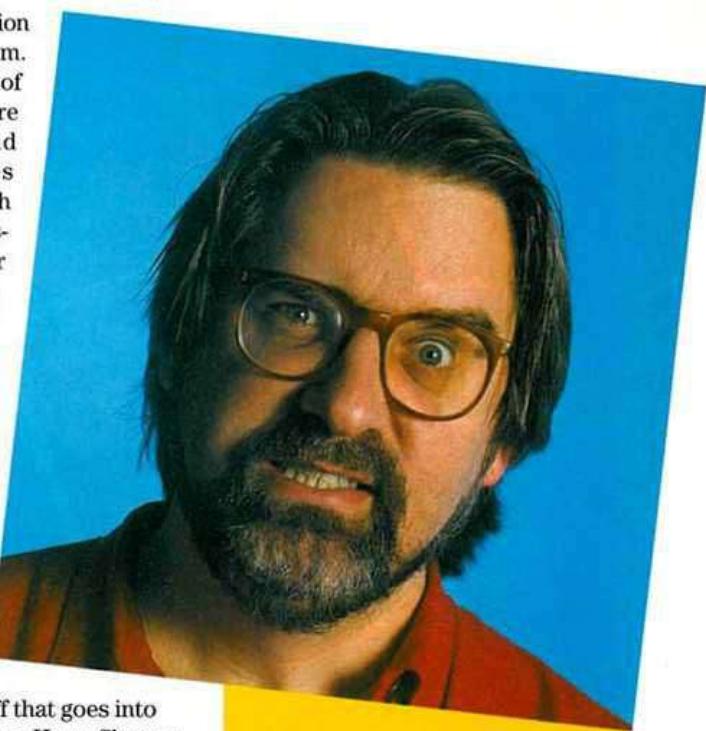
The actors ad-lib stuff that goes into the show. When you see Harry Shearer do both Mr. Burns and Smithers in the same scene, it's frightening. And Hank Azaria, who does the voice of Apu and Moe, always cracks me up. Then there's Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Yeardley Smith, and Nancy Cartwright, who are perfect.

And of course there are the behind-the-scenes people who rarely get attention: Alf Clausen, our composer, who keeps knocking out fantastic scores; Mark McJimsey, who edits the show day and night; and casting director Bonnie Pietila, who lines up all the great guests we have. I'll continue this list in my next interview.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Is there anything that you're able to do with the magazine that you can't do with the show?

GROENING: The thing that makes me happiest about *Simpsons Illustrated* are all the drawings that we get from readers. I wish we could print them all. They're really imaginative. They show a lot of hard work. Steve and Cindy Vance, Peter Alexander and I look at every one of them and we can't believe it. We just want to say to everyone who has sent in a drawing: "Thank you so much! You really make us happy." And again, save your drawings. Don't throw them away.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Is there something you have yet to achieve that you want very badly?



"I don't want Bart Simpson on my tombstone."

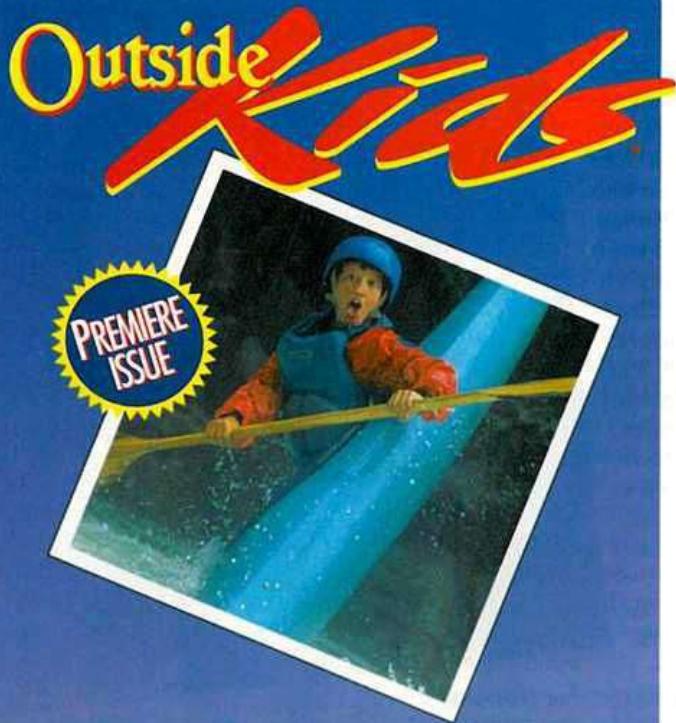
GROENING: I think the world is almost ready for a *Simpsons* amusement park. We'll call it *Simpsons World*, of course. The centerpiece will be Homer Mountain. You'll enter Itchy & Scratchy Land at your own risk. And you'll be able to eat heavily-salted snack treats in the head of the 600-foot-high statue of Bart Simpson.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Wow. Maybe his teeth could rotate.

GROENING: His whole head will rotate. We'll build this in the center of Los Angeles, and at night Bart's jumbo spotlight eyes will shine into mansions in Beverly Hills. And we'll have a blimp in the shape of Marge Simpson hovering over the city, making annoyed Marge murmur through giant loudspeakers hidden in her hairdo.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What other stuff do you like?

GROENING: I love the work of Gary Panter, who does William & Percy for this magazine, and John Kricfalusi, who created *Ren & Stimpy*. I'm really looking forward to seeing what he does



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next. I'm always intrigued by people who have a unique vision that they express musically. I've liked Frank Zappa since I was a kid. I also like a Jamaican screwball named Lee "Scratch" Perry, Sun Ra and his Solar Myth Arkestra, Captain Beefheart, Daniel Johnston, Yma Sumac, Perez Prado, Olivier Messiaen, Holger Czukay, Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What books influenced you when you were a kid?

GROENING: As a little kid I loved Dr. Seuss. Later I got into Mark Twain, *Catcher in the Rye*, by J. Edgar Hoover, I mean J. D. Salinger. *Catch 22*, by Joseph Heller. Who else? P.G. Wodehouse, James Thurber, S.J. Perelman, Robert Benchley, Jean Shepard. One of my main influences was *Cartooning the Head And figure* by Jack Hamm, which demonstrated on page 3 that you can evoke all sorts of emotions with the crudest little ink squiggles.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: What's coming up?

GROENING: *Simpsons Comics & Stories* was a smash, so Steve and Cindy Vance, Bill Morrison, and I are scheming to figure out how to do comic books on a regular schedule. Any interest out there for a *Radioactive Man* comic book?

The next *Life in Hell* book will be *Binky's Guide to Love*, a sequel to *Love Is Hell*, and someday I'd like to animate the rabbits and Akbar & Jeff for TV. A book called *Bart's Guide to Life* will also be coming out next fall, and maybe someday we'll do a *Simpsons* movie.

Any more questions?

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: No, I think that's pretty much it.

GROENING: This interview is gonna be very, like, especially towards the end, very, you know, rambling and discursive.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: That's okay. I mean —.

GROENING: But make it easy on yourself. You don't have to type up the stuff that you know is not going to be in there.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: In conclusion, what do you want on your tombstone?

GROENING: I don't want Bart Simpson.

SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: How about a tombstone shaped like Bart Simpson?

GROENING: Uh oh.

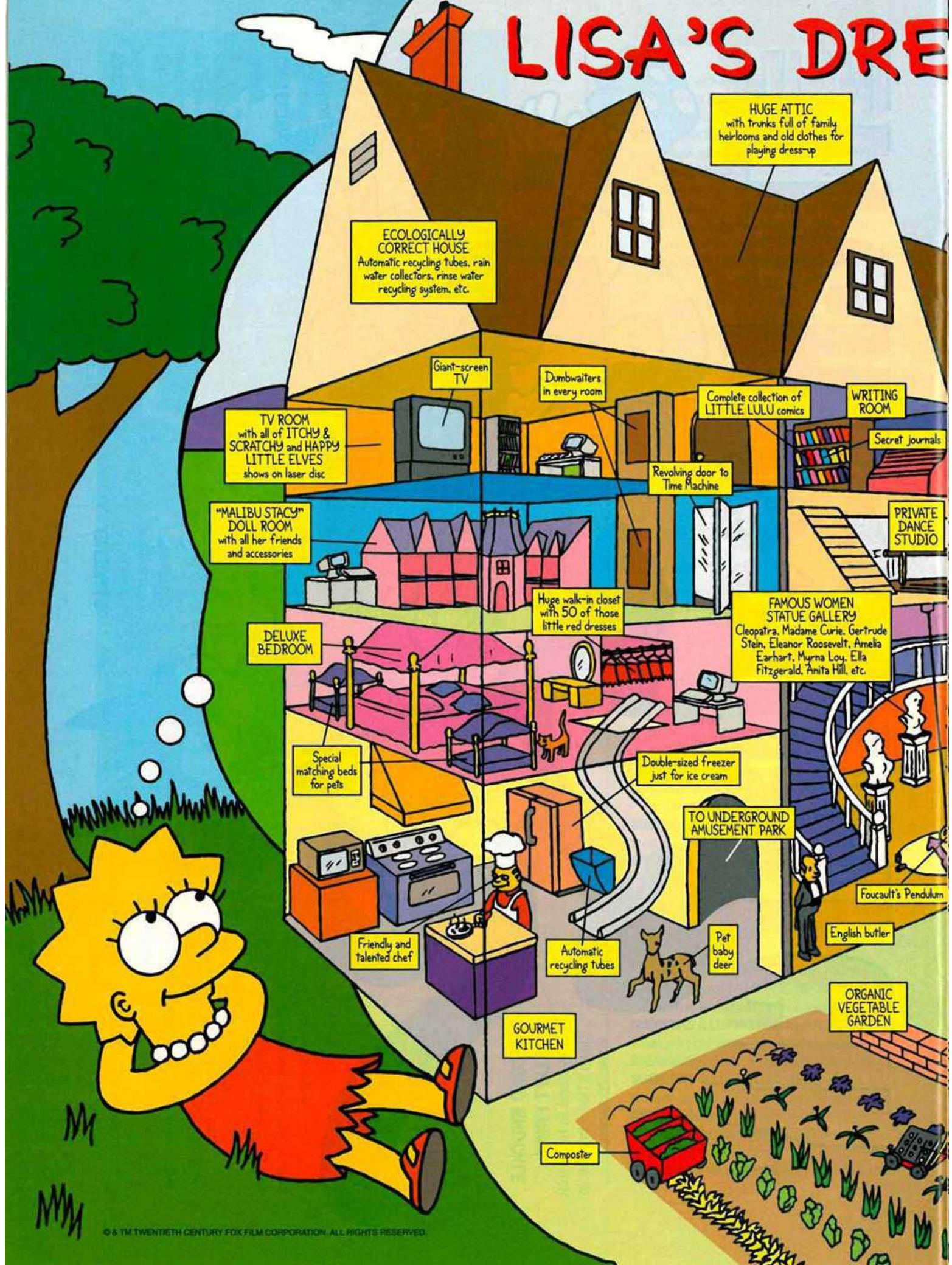
SIMPSONS ILLUSTRATED: Little pointy head. With spikes.

GROENING: Ahh. My destiny.

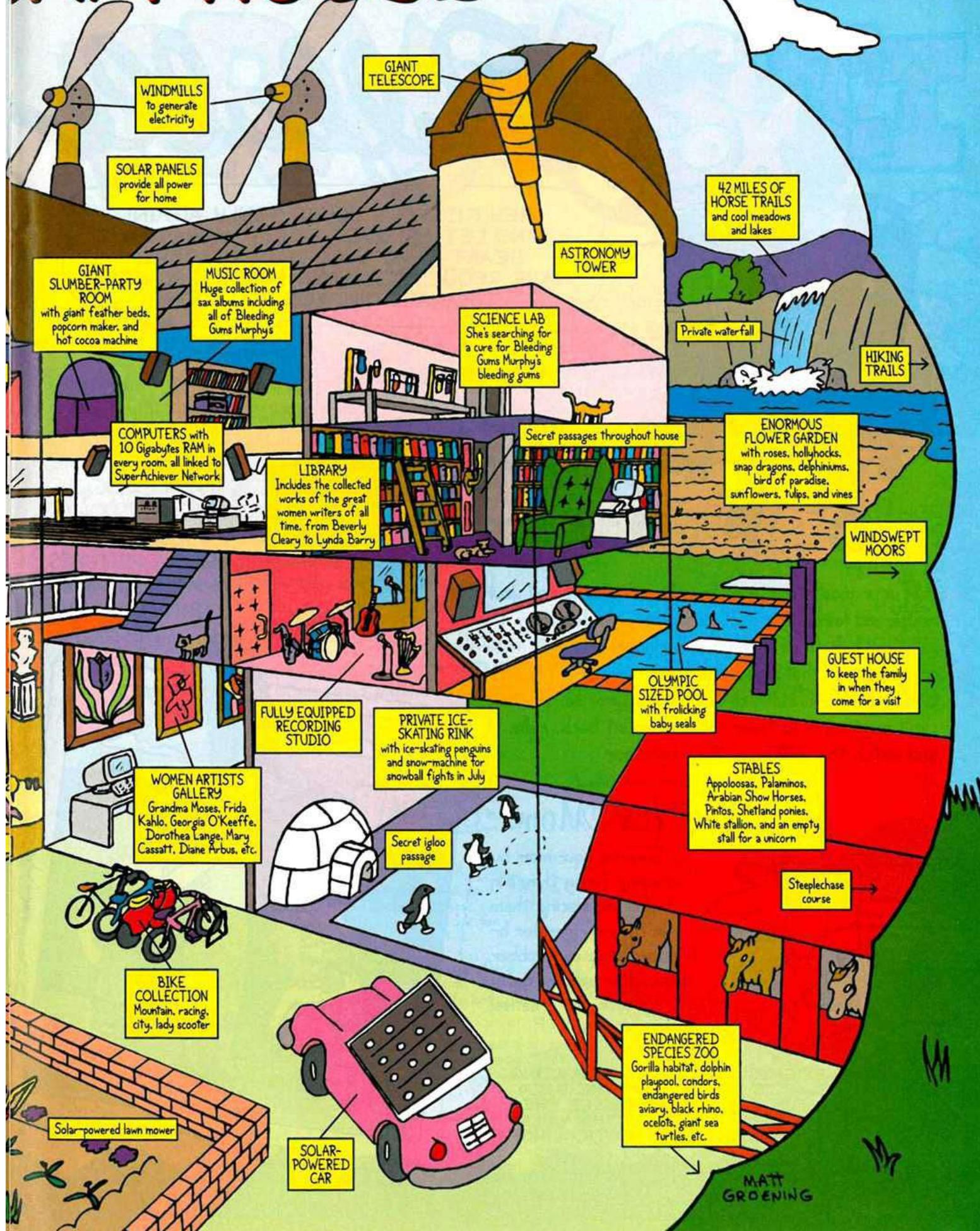
INSIDE ITCHY AND SCRATCHY



LISA'S DREAM HOUSE



WAM HOUSE





Prankster

HEY KIDS! IT'S YOURS TRULY AGAIN! AND LET ME JUST SAY IT WARMS MY HEART THAT YOU, DEAR READERS, HAVE REQUESTED MORE PRANKS. SO HERE THEY ARE. I'LL SEE YOU SOON!

Answer the phone in new and exciting ways. Say "Your credit card number, please," or pretend that you are calling them and say, "May I speak to Joe, please?"

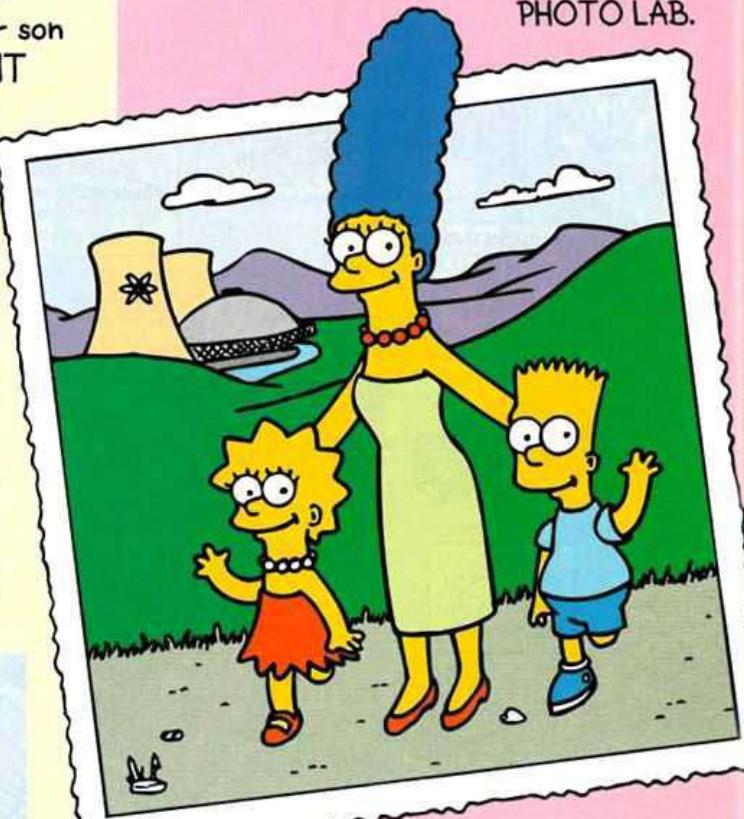
Ask your most "mature" sounding friend to call your house and leave your parents a message. Tell them the call is on behalf of the school principal and that their son or daughter (that's you) has been named "STUDENT OF THE MONTH." Tell them it's a surprise, so they can't mention it to their child. Then sit back, relax, and watch the change in their behavior.

Just for Mom...

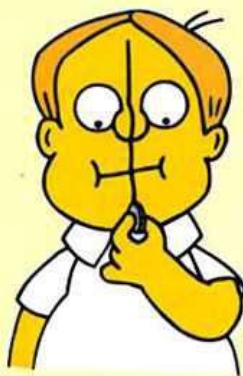
Surprise your mom by wrapping funny things in tinfoil and placing them in the refrigerator or freezer. Wrap up a rubber duck, water balloon, or an old sock. Get creative!

TEST YOUR FRIENDS' "BALANCE" BY PLACING TWO FULL GLASSES OF LIQUID ON THE BACK OF THEIR HANDS. SAY "YOU'VE PASSED THE TEST!" NOW SCRAM! (TRY TO DO THIS WHEN NOBODY ELSE IS AROUND.) AND NO TICKLING!

GOTTA POSE FOR YET ANOTHER FAMILY PHOTO? NEXT TIME, MAKE IT A "PHOTO OPPORTUNITY" TO PULL A LITTLE PRANK. JUST BEFORE THE PICTURE IS TAKEN, SWING ONE LEG UP (FROM THE KNEE DOWN). YOUR PARENTS WILL GET A BIG SURPRISE WHEN THE PICTURES COME BACK. IF THEY FLIP OUT, JUST TELL THEM TO COMPLAIN TO THE PHOTO LAB.



PRANKS II



RUB THE OUTER EDGE OF A DIME OR QUARTER WITH A PENCIL, THEN DARE SOMEONE TO ROLL IT IN A STRAIGHT LINE FROM HIS FOREHEAD TO HIS CHIN. STAND BACK AND OBSERVE THE RESULTS. AND DON'T LAUGH!

POST NOTES ON FRIENDS' LOCKERS. GO AND ENJOY THE SNACKS. WHEN THEY ASK ABOUT THE NOTES, LOOK STUMPED AND PRETEND YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE.



SPOOK THE TEACHER AGAIN!

Select a "secret word" with your classmates, such as "you" or "school" or "stupid ingrates." When your teacher says the secret word, everybody look to the left. Next time, look to the right. Next time, fall off your chairs! (This is especially fun with substitute teachers!)

The Classic Corner - SHORTSHEETING THE BED

Here's one trick that's been part of our cultural heritage for generations, practiced in houses and summer camps the world over. Follow the easy steps below.

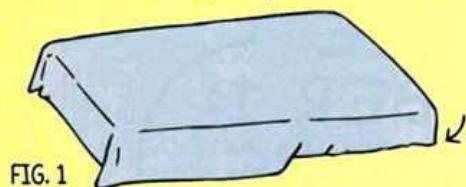


FIG. 1

FIG. 1 - Take the top sheet off the bed and lay it loosely over the fitted bottom sheet. Tuck the top half under the mattress so it looks like a fitted bottom sheet.

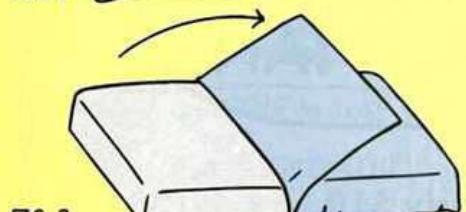


FIG. 2

FIG. 2 - Fold the bottom half up to look like a normal top sheet, creating a pocket for a person to fit in.

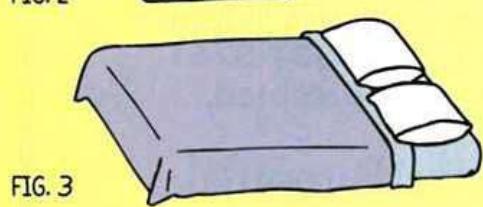


FIG. 3

FIG. 3 - To camouflage your handiwork, make up the rest of the bed as usual.

FIG. 4 - When the unsuspecting person tries to go to bed, they'll only be able to fit in halfway!



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MATT
GROENING

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ARNOLD's JUNGLE CRUISE

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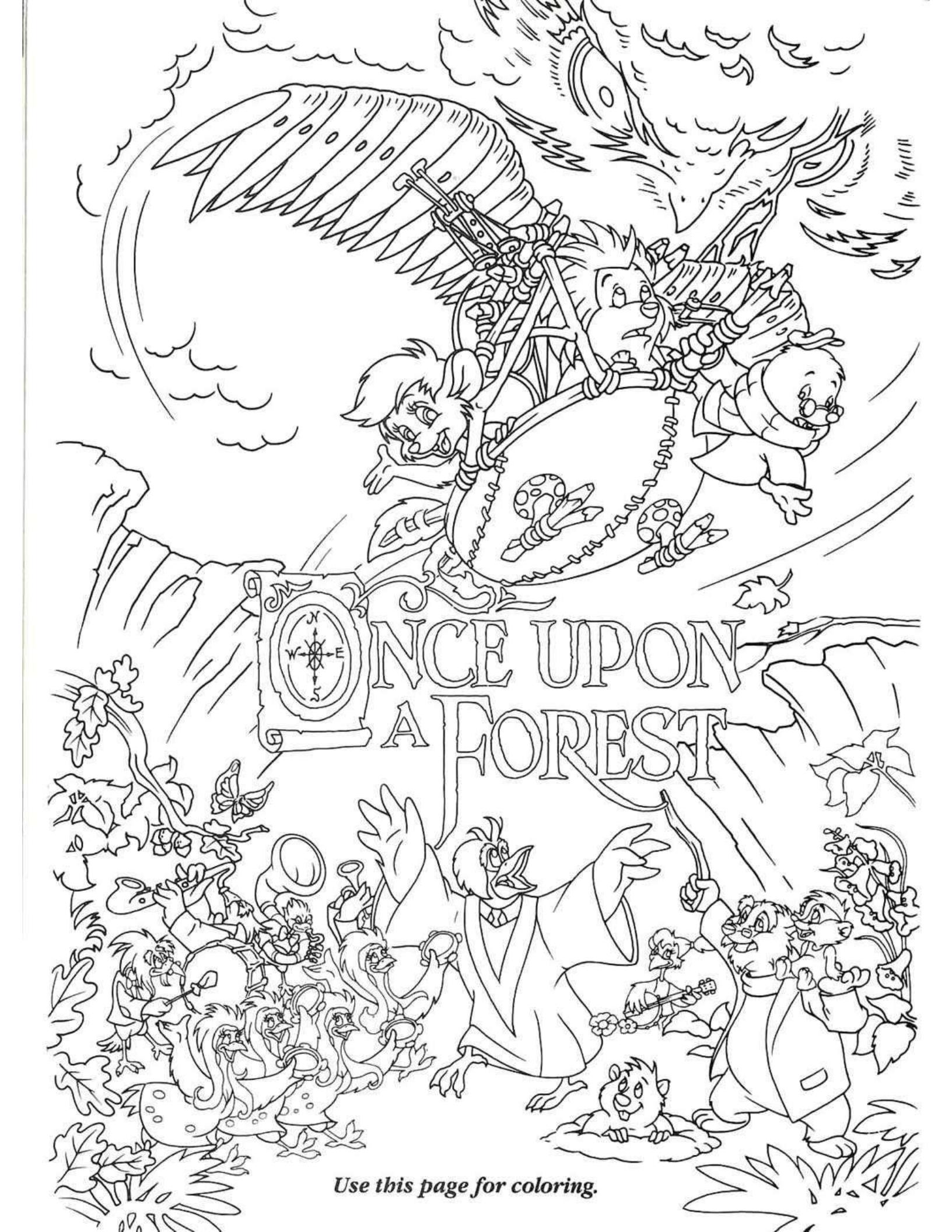


WILLIAM & PERCY



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MY BOTTOM 40:

1. Trying to stay awake 24 hours a day
2. Flesh wounds
3. The screams of customers who burn their tongues on the microwave bean burritos
4. Refunds
5. The annual two-week downturn in sales while Homer Simpson is away on vacation
6. The lonely hours between 3 and 5 A.M.
7. People who wish to get change without making at least a \$10 purchase
8. The unflattering manner in which the overhead security camera photographs my bald spot
9. Wondering whether Squishees are as nutritious as they say
10. Dairy-product expiration dates which are printed in non-erasable ink
11. Wondering why the young hooligans are always snickering about their "five finger discounts"
12. Jimbo
13. Dolf
14. Kearney
15. Bart Simpson
16. Homer Simpson's complaints that my heavily salted snack treats are not salty enough
17. Skateboard skidmarks on my freshly waxed floors
18. The eternal conflict between my immigrant work ethic and the allure of the local foxy ladies
19. The disappointing sales of my homemade curry-flavored crunch-treats
20. The insulting Kwik-E-Mart employee burial plan
21. The tempting lurid magazines that I sell but must not look at, lest my vigilance wander from the important duties of a convenience store clerk
22. Sweaty customers fumbling through the jerky jar
23. Eating meals from food bought in my own store
24. The infernal way the door bongs every time a customer enters or exits
25. Customers who wear pantyhose over their heads
26. Scrubbing the dumpster out back until it's springtime fresh
27. The quite painful way the cash register drawer slams into my stomach every time I ring up a sale
28. People who browse more than seven seconds before making a purchase
29. The persistent stickiness on the floor surrounding the Squishee machine, no matter how hard I mop
30. The persistent stickiness on the floor surrounding the Squishee machine, no matter how hard I mop
31. Having to mend my shirts every time I get shot
32. Dodging bullets
33. Finding half-eaten packages of cookies on the shelf and seeing suspicious crumbs on the chin of Bart Simpson
34. The time I accidentally drank some concentrated Squishee syrup and had to go to the emergency room
35. The bitter moans and curses of Homer Simpson every time he sees the numbers on his Scratch & Win lottery tickets
36. Absent-mindedly eating my own corn chips
37. Trying to catch a quick nap in the cooler
38. The pungent aroma of a heat-lamp dog that's been cooking for two weeks
39. Sleeping with my eyes open
40. Robbers who are so rude!

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MATT
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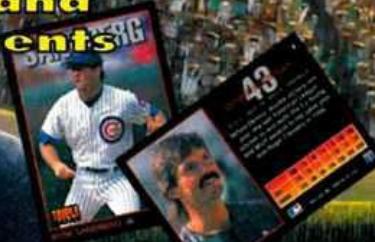
New "Action Baseball"
game card

Randomly inserted
"Nickname" subset

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Fun Facts and
Player Quotes

All-new Little Hotshots
and Awesome Action

More Stadiums,
Mascots and
Fun Moments



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means collecting fun